



## *The President's Daily Brief*

4 March 1972

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Japan

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There is a distinct possibility of trouble between Guatemala and British Honduras now that London has decided to augment its garrison in Belize. (Page 2)

Archbishop Makarios has demonstrated his strong support among Cypriots. (Page 3)

Pakistani President Bhutto is attempting to bring the country's military chiefs under control. (Page 4)

Egypt

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**JAPAN-CHINA**

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## FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

### UNITED KINGDOM - GUATEMALA

The British have informed the Guatemalan Government that they intend permanently to raise the strength of their garrison and install anti-aircraft weapons in neighboring British Honduras.

*Until recently, the garrison consisted of one company of infantry, about 250 men. When the British thought they detected a desire on the part of the Guatemalans to satisfy their claims to British Honduras through the use of force, however, a battalion of grenadier guards was sent to the territory, ostensibly for military exercises. The British now plan gradually to replace the guards with companies of Gurkha infantry, apparently believing that a stronger military position will help in negotiations with Guatemala.*

The Guatemalans have reacted sharply to the British decision, characterizing it as a provocation. Foreign Minister Herrera told Ambassador Bowdler on Thursday that his country cannot negotiate with a "gun at its head," and was particularly upset that the British intend to publicize their move, probably on Monday. He claimed publicity would put his government in an extremely difficult position vis-a-vis its hotheaded nationalists. President Arana yesterday called his cabinet into emergency session to plan Guatemala's strategy.

*The Guatemalans are jumpy because despite London's denials, they tend to interpret the augmentation of British forces as preparatory to granting independence to British Honduras. They fear such a move could imperil satisfaction of Guatemala's territorial claims. Rather than becoming more amenable to negotiation of its claims, the Guatemalan Government may now find it necessary for domestic political reasons to adopt a more belligerent stance than heretofore. This could well include military moves that could heighten, rather than lessen tensions.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**CYPRUS**

Large numbers of Greek Cypriots demonstrated yesterday in support of President Makarios, and the three bishops who called for his resignation appear to be in some physical danger. The Cypriot House of Representatives yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution calling on Makarios to continue as president.

*These demonstrations of support would seem to counter, at least for the present, this latest move to unseat Makarios. The greatest danger for the Archbishop now is that the popular reaction will get out of hand, giving the Greeks an excuse to intervene militarily. According to a UN official on Cyprus, the 950-man Greek military contingent there is in "a high state of readiness."*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PAKISTAN

Yesterday President Bhutto dismissed his army and air force commanders, as well as six lesser officers. He publicly explained that he was acting to end the Pakistani military's attempt to play a political role.

*The dismissals seem intended primarily to assert Bhutto's personal control over the greatest potential threat to his authority. He had himself appointed Gul Hasan as army commander on entering office last December, but strains had developed between them. Gul Hasan's refusal last week to follow Bhutto's order to send troops into Lahore during a police strike seems to have been the last straw.*

*Bhutto's action could also be related to a growing controversy with the Pathan leader of the Northwest Frontier Province. Both the dismissed officers are Pathans, and their replacements are natives of the Punjab.*

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NOTES

Egypt-Israel

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Israel:

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